

Packing, Mr. Caprara and his family became the definition of what it means to be a successful family farm.

But Dennis Caprara was not just a farmer, he was a leader. He served as Chairman of the Grower-Shipper Association, director of the Salinas Valley River Coalition, and as a distinguished fellow at a local college. Over the years, he received many honors and awards, such as: CSUMB Distinguished Fellow-Ag Businessman of the Year, Salinas Area Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Leadership Award, and Future Farmers of America Honorary Chapter Farmer.

Dennis also gave back to the community that gave him so much. He was a member of the Swiss Rifle Club and always attended the local livestock auctions where he and his wife, Janice, were active bidders, supporting the young leaders of 4H and Future Farmers of America.

Mr. Caprara was a friend and a mentor to many, including myself. He offered so much to those who knew him, who worked with him, who listened to him, and who loved him.

Madam Speaker, today we mourn the loss of Dennis Caprara. But because of Dennis, every day we realize that the Salad Bowl of life tastes so good, not just because of its products, but also because of its people.

RECOGNIZING THE DONOHO  
SCHOOL CLASS 2A STATE  
VOLLEYBALL TITLE

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Donoho School Lady Falcons for winning the AHSAA Class 2A state volleyball title.

Donoho beat Pleasant Valley to secure their third state title in the past four years. The game was played at Birmingham's Bill Harris Arena on October 26, 2022.

Securing this state title brings the volleyball program to 13 total state championships.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Coach Anna Taylor, the volleyball team, students, faculty and all the fans. Go Lady Falcons.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF VICE  
ADMIRAL BILL MERZ

### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the service of Vice Admiral Bill Merz, who will retire from the U.S. Navy on December 1, 2022, after nearly 40 years in uniform. His long and distinguished service to our nation reflects an unwavering devotion to duty and great love of country.

Vice Admiral Merz earned his commission from the United States Naval Academy in 1986 and upon graduation entered the fleet as a newly minted submarine officer. Having first qualified aboard the attack submarine USS *Haddo* (SSN 604), he subsequently qualified

in surface warfare while serving aboard the submarine tender USS *Proteus* (AS 19), which was the last remaining vessel in service that observed the end of World War II from Tokyo Bay. After commanding the nuclear deep-sea vessel "NR-1," the attack submarine USS *Memphis* (SSN 691), and Submarine Development Squadron Twelve, his sea-going career concluded aboard the USS *Blue Ridge* (LCC 19) as commander of the U.S. 7th Fleet.

Merz' service ashore reflected the same rigors he faced at sea, serving in prestigious and demanding roles as Director, Undersea Warfare Division (OPNAV N97); Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfighting Requirements (OPNAV N9); and in his final tour of duty, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans, and Strategy (OPNAV N3N5). During his time at the Pentagon, he had the duty to frequently appear as a witness before congressional committees, and to present budgets and policy. This can be an arduous experience at times, but Admiral Merz never lost his patience, composure, or civility. He treated every member with respect and showed a refreshing willingness to listen to suggestions. As Chair of the Seapower Subcommittee for the last four years, I had the opportunity to see up close the seriousness and authenticity with which he approached his job. He understood that Article one, Section eight, Clause thirteen of the U.S. Constitution vested in Congress the authority to 'provide and maintain a Navy.' As exasperating as that arrangement can sometimes be, Admiral Merz adhered to that edict and thus kept faith with his oath to the Constitution from the day he left Annapolis to his departure on 1 December, 2022.

Madam Speaker, as the proud Representative of Naval Submarine Base New London—the Submarine Capital of the World—I recognize the immense sacrifice Bill has made for this country. Few choose a life that takes them away from their family, but fewer still choose a life in the "Silent Service," where submariners endure deployments without the luxury of frequent communication with their loved ones. For this reason, I ask the Members to also recognize the service and sacrifice of the Men family—his wife Martha, his daughter Caroline, and his sons Thomas and Matthew—without whom these past 40 years could not have been possible. They have been an integral part of the admiral's long journey and deserve our nation's thanks.

As Bill brings to an end this chapter of his life and hangs up the uniform, I ask that we honor him today for his many years of leadership and service to our great Nation. To that end, it is most appropriate that my colleagues in the House join me in celebrating Vice Admiral Bill Merz and wishing him and his family all the best as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

HONORING THE WORK AND RETIREMENT OF WILLIAM "CHIP" R. MURRAY

### HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of William "Chip" R. Mur-

ray, for his retirement after a stunning 47-year career in service to two of our Nation's greatest resources: our forests and the millions of Americans who own and manage them.

After beginning his career at the U.S. Department of the Interior, Chip found his way into forestry in 1989. Chip focused on forestry issues for more than 20 years at the American Forest & Paper Association, where he served as Deputy General Counsel and Executive Director of Forestry. In that role, he oversaw forestry programs that helped forest owners manage their land to meet the objectives of the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act. Chip also spearheaded important improvements to various legislation impacting the forestry sector.

In 2010, Chip joined the National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO) as Vice President for Policy, and General Counsel. His work at NAFO over the last 12 years has focused on ensuring that policymakers understand and appreciate private forestry's deeply rooted culture of sustainability and the vast environmental benefits private working forests provide—from climate mitigation and clean air to clean water and wildlife habitat.

Chip's work on wildlife conservation is perhaps his most enduring legacy. Chip led the development of the Wildlife Conservation Initiative, a pioneering partnership between private landowners and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) to conserve at-risk and declining species on private forestlands. Under Chip's leadership, NAFO's Wildlife Conservation Initiative has become the gold standard of collaborative species conservation. Today, NAFO members and the USFWS are partnering on voluntary conservation projects in every legacy USFWS region in the country.

Throughout his career, Chip has led and participated in a wide variety of forestry sector organizations and coalitions. He is widely known for his encyclopedic knowledge of forestry, his rich institutional memory, and the passion he brings to any issue he touches. Chip is generous with his time, insights, and mentorship, to the great benefit of several generations of forestry professionals.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the outstanding career of Chip Murray, spent in service to our nation's abundant privately owned forests. Today we honor Chip and the lasting impact he has had on the forestry community, both inside and outside of government. We wish him and Ellen well as they start the next chapter of their lives—enjoying many adventures that undoubtedly will include time well spent in the forest.

HONORING LAURA TUCKER

### HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Laura Tucker of Salem, Virginia, upon receiving the Charles Brown Award from Roanoke College. The award recognizes citizens of Salem who have made significant contributions to the well-being of the City and its people, and Ms. Tucker is certainly deserving of the honor.

Ms. Tucker works for the Salem Water Department and as an instructional assistant in